

Art, History and Memory in post-war East/Central Europe (U Nottingham, 1.-4.4.2004)

David Crowley

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Art, History and Memory in post-war East/Central Europe

Association of Art Historians Annual Conference 2004: Old/New?

University of Nottingham, UK, 1-4 April 2004

This is the first call for papers for a conference strand on approaches to the art and architecture of Eastern/Central Europe in the light of the experience of 'post-socialism'.

Art, History and Memory in post-war East/Central Europe

The past was highly politicised during the socialist period in Eastern/Central Europe. The force of history was invoked to legitimate authority. And 'collective memory' was activated to contest lies and distortions in the historical record. Memory and history were often counter-posed in what Havel described as the struggle to 'live in truth'. What role did art and architecture play in these processes? And how should this often tendentious art be considered today? By similar measure the historiography of the field needs to be re-examined. What was the relation of scholarship to authority?

With currents of nationalism, nostalgia, lustration and triumphalism pulsing through post-communist societies, memory and history have been brought into new relations in the last dozen years. How the histories of art, architecture and design of the socialist period are written continues to be an ethically and politically sensitive matter. As Slovene writer Marina Grzanic commented in *Fiction Reconstructed* (2000) 'it is time to find and to re-write paradigms of specific spaces, arts and media productions in Eastern Europe.'

The convenors of this strand welcome proposals of papers dealing with any aspect

of art (widely defined to include architecture and design), theory or art historiography of East/Central Europe since the Second World War.

Abstracts of 200-400 words should be sent by e-mail to the organisers by 1st November 2003. Speakers will receive confirmation of acceptance of their papers in mid-November 2003.

Abstracts or queries should be addressed to either/both convenors:

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